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HELVETICA LODGE LADIES' FESTIVAL.

This week I am not going to talk about the C.S.C. but about the Ladies' Festival of the Helvetica Lodge, which as every one knows is the Swiss lodge in London under the English constitution. It was held at the Café Royal on Saturday, October 19th, Mr. René Marchand, accompanied by Mrs. Marchand, being in the chair. I must confess that when I received my invitation card I was pleased to see that it was to take place at the Café Royal, for I have rather a friendly feeling towards this famous restaurant and I was glad to find that under the supervision of Mr. Ferrier and Mr. V. Lombard both the dinner and the general arrangements were in keeping with what we were accustomed to expect from the Café Royal in past times.

The proceedings commenced at the early hour of 6 p.m. and it was only when I realised that it was a Saturday night and we should be obliged to stop at mid-night, that I appreciated the necessity for this unfashionable hour.

During the dinner a musical programme was executed by Miss Evelyn Hardy's quartet and as I was seated near the orchestra I appreciated the quietness of the music. Most of us have suffered only too often from the virile efforts of a loud and overpowering orchestra. The menu card pleased me immensely. Tastefully drawn up with a design of three beautiful damsels waiting in apparent agony in front of a closed door (it only needed as a motto "laschiati ogni speranza" to complete the picture) and bound with a pale blue ribbon of a tint which must be the envy of all feminine hearts and which I understand is the prevailing colour in lodges, it contained besides the menu, a list of the toasts, etc., with a little quotation after each item. Congratulations to the author, who must possess a library of books containing quotations, for they were most ingenious though the one following the toast of the Ladies was slightly ambiguous.

Over 160 persons were present, amongst whom were numerous well-known members of the Swiss Colony. To one like myself, who is fast approaching the brink of that gentle but slippery slope which leads to mental and physical decay, it is always a matter of great interest to watch the evolution of the younger members of the colony whom one has known as children. I was seated near the charming daughters of one of our most eminent members, one of whom I learnt had recently recovered from an attack of mumps which fortunately had left no untoward effects.

During dinner, numerous toasts were drunk with fervour, each of which was heralded by officials of the lodge loudly knocking on the table with a nasty little hammer. I was given to understand that this is usually done in lodges, but I do not know if it is intended to attract the attention of members or if the hammer is sometimes used to reduce unruly ones to order. In any case, to one who is of a lazy and nervous disposition and who likes to eat his dinner in peace, this little custom is inclined to be somewhat disconcerting.

After dinner the speeches were commendably short, but I opine that when ladies are present they might still further be restricted. I venture to suggest that the S.O. should open its columns to a discussion on this subject, for it is my belief that ladies do not care for speeches after dinner and an expression of opinion might be useful to those who are called upon to organise banquets at which ladies are present. The reply to the toast of the Ladies was made by Mrs. H. Binggely and I should like to express my admiration of her excellent speech. Mrs. Binggely not only possesses a charming voice but she has the gift of self confidence, for it is not given to everyone to face the ordeal of speaking in public with such equanimity, as all those who are called upon to make after dinner speeches realise.

A pleasing feature was the presentation on behalf of the lodge to Mrs. R. Marchand of a shawl as a souvenir of the occasion and I am sure no one could have acted as hostess with greater dignity or charm. Dancing then followed under the able direction of Mr. C. Chapuis who once again maintained his reputation as a Master of Ceremonies.

During the evening an entertainment was provided by Miss Brena Quinion and Mr. Charles Harris who sang several songs, into one of which called "Impressions of London Town" some rather clever "local" allusions were introduced. Another song gave an opportunity for the company to give an exhibition of community singing, the excellence of which was not to be wondered at, in an assembly largely composed of Swiss. Mr. Lewis gave a clever demonstration of paper tearing thereby producing various patterns, etc., from an apparently intact piece of paper.

He also gave an exhibition of his powers as a ventriloquist. Dancing was then resumed, until the hour of mid-night brought the evening to a close and I think the lodge may be heartily congratulated on the success of this, its third, Ladies' Festival.

"A TRAVERS LA SUISSE."

The second and third performances—on Saturday afternoon (Oct. 19th.)—of this excellent film of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique were no less successful than the first show on Wednesday. In all over 1,600 members of our Colony and their friends have taken advantage of the generous treat offered by the N.S.H., London Group. At the last performance, which began at 4 p.m., King George's Hall was filled to overflowing, when our Minister, Mr. Paravicini, delivered a much appreciated patriotic speech, spiced with his never failing fund of humor. All three shows were prefaced by short orations by Mr. A. F. Suter, the President of the London Group of the N.S.H., who also made pleasant running comments during the intervals. On Wednesday and at the second performance on Saturday Pasteur Hoffman de Visme also addressed the eager crowds of spectators in a very fiery and inspiring manner, in contrast to which Herr Pfarrer Hahn managed equally to rouse the patriotic hearts at the Wednesday show by his more patriarchal style of oratory. As on Wednesday the beautiful choice of Swiss records produced by the courtesy of Mr. Newman, also enriched the Saturday performances. All three shows were a tremendous success for which—surely expressing the sentiments of the whole of our Colony—we thank and congratulate the N.S.H. and its London President most heartily. Everybody will have noted with pleasure Mr. Suter's announcement that the N.S.H. hopes to be able to show us other films later on, although nothing definite has been arranged as yet.—THE ED.

The Publisher will be pleased to forward free specimen copies of "The Swiss Observer" to likely subscribers whose addresses may be supplied by readers.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE aura lieu le MARDI 5 NOVEMBRE au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

ORDRE DU JOUR:	
Procès-verbal.	Ratification des nouveaux règlements.
Admissions.	Divers.
Démotions.	
Banquet Annuel.	

SCHWEIZERBUND (Swiss Club)

74, Charlotte Street,



Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Great Gymnastic Display

by members of the Swiss Gymnastic Society (Men, Ladies and Juniors) will be held on

Sunday, November 3rd at 7.30 p.m.

To be followed by a

Dance

Admission 1/6 incl.

ADVERTISE in the "SWISS OBSERVER"

It's Patriotic and it Pays!

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.

The Committee wish to draw the attention of the Contributing Members and friends to the

Annual Banquet and Ball

which will be held on **Friday, 8th November**

AT THE

FIRST AVENUE HOTEL (High Holborn)

TICKETS at 10/6 can be obtained from Mr. JOHN GERBER, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2 or any other member of the Choir

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The members and friends of the Society are reminded that our

First Cinderella Dance

of the Season will take place on

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 1929,

at the

Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Stn., N.W.

from 6.45 for 7.0 to 11.45 p.m.

TICKETS at 8s. 6d. (incl. Supper during the interval) may be obtained from Mr. J. C. Nussle, 8, Cross Lane, E.C.3 (Tel. Royal 8834), Mr. R. Chapuis, 31, Crockerton Rd., Upper Tooting, S.W.17, at Swiss House, 34-36, Fitzroy Square, W.1 (Tel. Museum 6893) and from Employment Department, 21, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4 (Tel. City 7119). THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

Our newly instituted service of TRAVELLERS' HEQUES,

which are issued in denominations of £2, £5 and £10, should prove of great convenience to all who contemplate travelling abroad. The cheques can be obtained both at our

City Office, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

and at our

West End Office, 11c, Regent St., S.W.1,

which is situated next door to that of the Swiss Federal Railways.

Swiss Rifle Association

Headquarters: 1, Gerrard Place, W.1

Shooting Range: Opposite Welsh Harp, Hendon.

The S.R.A. wishes to inform Members that the **YEARLY COMPETITION**

has been extended to

November 2nd

The Final Shoot has already commenced and Members are advised to be at the Range at an early date to avoid unpleasant crowding on the last days

Come and have lunch on the Shooting Ground on Sunday next. Menu: Potlet au Riz, Sauce Supreme

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),

(Langue française.)

79, Endell Street, near New Oxford St., W.C.1.

Dimanche 27 Octobre, 11h.—"Jésus et la pensée d'aujourd'hui" Jean XVIII/38. M. R. Hoffman-de Visme. 3 à 6h. au Foyer—Club missionnaire. 6.30h.—1er Culte liturgique de l'année: "Notre père qui es aux cieux" avec violon & soli. 7.30h.—Répétition du Choeur Mixte.

Dimanche 3 Novembre:—Réformation: Ste. Cène matin & soir.

MARRIAGE.

Adalbert STIER & Josephine von LILIENFELD, tous deux de Berlin—le 15 Octobre, 1929.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Moutview 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2. (near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 27. Oktober 1929.

11 Uhr morg. Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr abends: Chorpöbe.

Getauft wurde am 20. Oktober 1929.

Marie Sheila BALMER, Tochter des Friedrich Balmar von Wilderswyl (Bern) und der Kathleen Mary geb. Gordon von London.—Geboren am 14. 11. 1928.

Am Sonntag, den 3. November ist REFORMATIONSFEST.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Monday, October 28th.—UNION HELVETICA SOCIETY. Grande Soirée Amicale Suisse. Real Swiss Night. Reserve this date for a joyful evening. Tickets 3/-.

Saturday, November 2nd, at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Grand Hotel. See advertisement.

Sunday, November 3rd., at 7.30 p.m.—SCHWEIZERBUND (SWISS CLUB): Gymnastic Display and Dance, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Tuesday, November 5th.: at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1.

Wednesday, November 6th., at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Thursday, November 7th.—UNION CHRETIENNE DE JEUNES GENS DE LANGUE FRANCAISE. Lecture by M. G. Austie Smith, at 8 p.m., at 15, Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1.

Friday, November 8th.—SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn.

Friday, November 22nd.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Victoria Hotel.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOC.: Every Saturday and Sunday, Shooting Practice on the Rifle Range near the Welsh Harp, Hendon